

aligned row with a first predetermined spacing between each adjacent pair of frame members, forming a lattice framework by connecting multiple horizontal runners extending along the length of the module to the frame members with the horizontal runners parallel to each other and with a second predetermined spacing between each adjacent pair of runners, securing horizontal angle members extending the length of the module to the internal and/or external corners of the lattice framework, and, securing sheeting to the lattice framework via the runners so as to form an enclosure which is defined exteriorly by the lattice framework.

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22. A method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the frame member formation step is carried out by butt welding for structural sections together.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Claim 14 refers to furring runners of top hat sections. This refers to a section of the furring runners which is a common British term.

Claims 1-11 have been replaced with claims 12-22. As now defined in the claims, the Applicant's building unit module is constructed by forming at least three rectangular frame members and then vertically positioning those frame members so that they are aligned but spaced from one another. Then horizontal runners are connected internally of the frame members so that the frame members and runners together form a lattice framework. The great advantage of use of the lattice structure is that structural loadings are borne throughout the structure and the frame distributes the load. This is in contrast to other structures where loads are transferred to a number of points within the structure so relatively more robust members have to be

used at those points. The Hilpert system is an example of this as will be further discussed below.

The lattice framework is then reinforced at its corners by horizontal corner members connected internally and/or externally of the framework. Such reinforcement makes the module suitable for connection to other such modules to form a building.

An enclosure is formed within the lattice framework, which enclosure is defined exteriorly by the lattice framework.

The module so produced can be fitted out in the factory with utility pipes and connections and also decorated. It can then be transported to site and connected with other such modules to make a building. The ability to build the modules and fit them out offsite significantly reduces the onsite construction time, which is highly advantageous. Additionally, sheeting is attached to the runners to help form the enclosure.

Turning now to Hilpert, which was relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting Claims 1 and 10, this is directed to forming a complete building with multiple floors using what are called "tree units" 10. Each tree unit 10 comprises an H section beam which is fitted in a shop with side beams 11. On site, the side beams are bolted together via "beam lengths" 12. Then cross beams 39 and 40 are bolted in place via angle brackets 16 on the tree units and angle brackets 14 on the beam length 12.

There is no disclosure in Hilpert of forming a building unit module which can be made offsite. Instead Hilpert is directed to forming a complete building almost entirely onsite, the only offsite work being the connection of the tree units and side

beams. This can be appreciated particularly clearly from Figure 8, which shows a method of loading tree units for shipment.

Onsite with the system of Hilpert it would appear most likely that firstly all the tree units will be erected and then each floor will be built one at a time by joining the tree units together by the beam lengths 12 and the cross beams 39 and 40. Thus, there will be no formation of rectangular frame members as called for in both Claim 12 and Claim 21. Furthermore, there will be no formation of a lattice framework, as the tree units are simply tied together by beams connected therebetween. There are no runners extending along the length of the module, as also called for in Claims 12 and 21.

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Hilpert does not set out to create a lattice framework. Instead the steel cage building construction which he provides is such that the loads will be concentrated in the tree units and the tree units therefore of necessity have to be heavy duty members.

There is also no disclosure in Hilpert of attaching corner members extending the length of the building. There would be no need for such corner members with the Hilpert structure as it is not a module which is to be joined to another such module. For the same reason there is no disclosure of adding sheeting. Instead, as disclosed for example, in paragraph 1 of Hilpert, reinforced concrete is used. That this is so points out the essential difference between the disclosure of Hilpert and the present invention, which is that Hilpert makes a complete building whereas the present invention seeks to provide a building unit module.

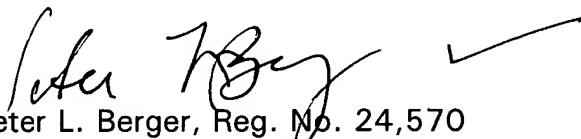
In summary, Claims 12 and 21 distinguish from the disclosure of Hilpert by the recitation of the structural elements for vertically orientated rectangular frames

members, horizontal runners extending along the length of the module and corner members extending along the length of the module. The structure disclosed in Hilpert simply would not be suitable for a building unit module. Furthermore, the method of construction which would be employed with the Hilpert structure is totally different from that of Claim 21. The method of Claim 21 is simply not one which would be practised on site.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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